

Message Text

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12

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 PM-07 /023 W

----- 002805

R 071520Z AGU 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5717

INFO SECDEF

SECNAV

CNO

NAVY JAG WASHDC

BUMED WASHDC

CHNAVPERS

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMCRUDESANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 1319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MT

SUBJ: FEATHERSTONE CASE

REF: VALLETTA 0886 (NOTAL)

1. DURING FAREWELL/INTRODUCTORY CALL ON CROWN ADVOCATE GENERAL MIZZI WE RAISED SUBJECT WITH HIM. MIZZI SAID THAT HE HAS FOUND A CLAUSE IN MALTA'S CRIMINAL CODE THAT COULD BE USED AS LEGAL BASIS TO RELEASE FEATHERSTONE TO US AUTHORITIES.

2. ALTHOUGH CLEARLY DISPOSED TO SETTLE THE CASE, MIZZI SAID THAT HE COULD NOT RECOMMEND THIS APPROACH TO HIGH AUTHORITY (MEANING THE PRIME MINISTER) UNLESS HE COULD BE GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT FEATHERSTONE WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANOTHER TRIAL, I.E., COURT MARTIAL. HE POINTED OUT THAT CASE HAD ALREADY BEEN TREATED BY MALTESE COURTS AND THAT FEATHERSTONE HAD BEEN FOUND NOT COMPETENT TO PLEAD, IMPLYING THAT A FURTHER TRIAL IN THE US, PARTICULARLY IF HE WERE FOUND COMPETENT, WOULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING TO MALTESE COURTS AND TO GOM.

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3. WE REITERATED AMBASSADOR GETZ'S POINT REFERRING
TO US NAVY PSYCHIATRIST REPORT (PARA 2 REFTTEL), BUT MIZZI
MAINTAINED HIS POSITION. WE SAID WE WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC.

4. COMMENT: BALL IS NOW BACK IN OUR COURT AND WE HOPE
THAT YET ANOTHER EFFORT CAN BE MADE TO GIVE GOM THE
ASSURANCES REQUIRED TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF SEAMAN FEATHERSTONE.
TUCKER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 07 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: n/a
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